

**INSIDE THIS  
MONTH'S ISSUE**

**From the Desk of  
Pastor Rob**

Monthly letter from Pastor Rob on an important topic in the church

**Musical Notes**

The latest news and info from Ruth Patrick, Director of Worship and Music

**What's Happening  
at Emmanuel**

Upcoming events and projects at Emmanuel

**Monthly Calendar**

Stay up to date on what is happening at the church in the coming month

**Staying Connected**

330-364-7571

Church Office  
office@emmanuelnp.com

740-214-6896

Pastor Rob Eller's Cell  
pastor@emmanuelnp.com

330-260-1224

Prayer Chain

www.emmanuelnp.com

facebook.com/

EmmanuelNewPhilly

instagram.com/

EmmanuelNewPhilly

youtube.com/

@EmmanuelNewPhilly

The Latest News and Happenings at  
Emmanuel Lutheran Church in New Philadelphia, Ohio

## From the Desk of Pastor Rob

**'For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'... 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' – Matthew 25:35-40**

The above verses are very well known, not just in church but in the world in general. They have been used as an example of how we are to treat others: those who are hungry, those who do not have enough, those who are on the margins. It is to serve as a reminder to us that we are to live and treat everyone as though we are encountering Jesus himself, because Christ is alive in all of us, everyone we encounter daily. How we treat others says a lot about who we are as Christians. There is a story of a pastor who wanted to see how his church would react to a person they did not recognize. One Sunday, there was a gentleman that walked into the church wearing clothes that were dirty and ragged and the man had a disheveled appearance with unkempt hair and a long beard. No one in the church would greet him and many avoided making any contact with him. So he sat in the front pew of the congregation waiting for worship to begin. When it was time for the service to start, he stood up and went to the front of the sanctuary, took off the coat, wig, and beard to reveal himself as the pastor. He then started a sermon on how he was disappointed with how the congregation treated him when they thought he was a homeless man that came in off the street and how we are supposed to treat everyone with the same love, respect, and dignity we ourselves want.

Our neighbors and siblings in Christ across the street, the shelter run by the Friends of the Homeless of Tuscarawas County, need a new facility in order to continue to operate. Their existing building is 90 years, the interior is crumbling and is not handicap accessible, which poses a major problem for its residents. The current building is no longer adequate for the needs of their residents. They have been searching for the last year for a piece of property to build a new facility on and have been met with roadblocks, as well as fighting misconceptions about the people that utilize the shelter. Along the way, they have been fighting the mentality of "I don't want that in my neighborhood" and "What about our property values?" That behavior, those thoughts, runs contrary to the scripture quoted above. When we place our personal interests ahead of the interests of caring for others, we are acting selfish.

Let me be clear, the residents of the shelter are people, just like you and I and should be treated with the same respect and dignity that we wish to receive. I have spent time volunteering at a homeless shelter in my hometown and the people who use this resource are some of the kindest and most humble you will meet because they are grateful for being able to having a roof over their head and a hot meal.

Continued on next page...

From the Desk of Pastor Rob continued...

I remember one gentleman in particular; he saw my tote bag from the seminary and asked where I got it because he liked it and wanted one. The next time I volunteered I brought one in for him and he was so thankful for it he gave me a hug and with tears in his eyes he said "Thank you, that's how brothers treat each other." That moment opened my eyes to how we are to treat our neighbors, all our neighbors, regardless of their circumstances. The homeless are not a problem, they are not nuisance, they are just ordinary people like you and I looking for a chance to get back on their feet.

We sang in worship recently the hymn Christ Be Our Light and the fourth verse of it is "Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold. Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone." Please stand with The Friends of the Homeless of Tuscarawas County in solidarity for the poor, the maligned, the homeless; be the voice they need and advocate on their behalf. It is our Christian duty to serve our neighbors in need.

Prayerfully yours,

*Pastor Rob*

## WELCA/Women's Bible Study

By Ruth Patrick

The next Women's Bible Study/WELCA will meet on Wednesday, February 1 at 1:30 pm in the 2nd floor meeting room. We're starting a new series of studies on the 10 Commandments and the first one is called "Dancing the Decalogue": Commandments 1 and 2. When you hear the words. The Ten Commandments, do any of these words come to mind: harsh, judgment, guilt, joy, excitement, fear, love, security, outdated, sin, irrelevant, timeless, delight? Or maybe you can think of some others?

Come to our studies and talk about your ideas with other women of Emmanuel- I think it promises to be a good and interesting and meaningful study.

If you subscribe to Gather magazine, please note that the publishers managed to get the wrong date on the cover! It says January/February of 2022! So don't mistakenly mislay it thinking it is last years! Bring it along to our meeting and if you are not a subscriber, we'll have copies of the lesson for you to use. Invite a friend!

## In Appreciation...

To the Emmanuel Carolers,  
We want you all to know how very much we appreciated your taking the time out of your busy schedules and coming out on a very cold day to sing beautiful Christmas carols to us.  
Thank you very much.

In Christian Love,  
Phyllis and Bert Kohler

To all the Emmanuel Singers who braved the cold and brought carols to my doorstep, thank you! You sounded beautiful and gave me much happiness during this wonderful Christmas Season. It was so nice to see all of you!

God's Richest Blessings,  
Shirley Yoder

I would like to give a big shout out Thank You to all at Emmanuel Lutheran Church and the service committee for the wonderful carols they sang at my house and a thank you to Neil Rupe for giving me communion at my home. Miss you all!! God bless you all.

- Betty Hattery

I'd like to thank Barb and Neil Rupe for sharing communion with me. Thank you for the altar flowers I've received. A special thank you to the ladies group for the gift bag they delivered at Christmas.

A warm thank you from the bottom of my heart!

- Agnes Seward

## What's Happening at Emmanuel...

### Get Well Cards

There are get well cards in the lobby to be signed for sending out in the future. Please take some time before or after worship and sign as many as you can. Thank you!

### Souper Bowl Sunday

February 12 after worship will be the annual Souper Bowl lunch. Come enjoy homemade soup and place your donations in the container of the team you want to see win the Super Bowl this year. All proceeds benefit the Greater Dover New Philadelphia Food Pantry.

### Sunday Services at Park Village Southside

Starting last month, Pastor Rob has joined the rotation of visiting pastors leading Sunday afternoon worship at Park Village Southside. If you are interested in helping with music, please let Pastor Rob know!

### Correction:

On the new birthday list, Tanya Eller's birthday is listed as January 21, the correct date is January 2

## In Other News... Mailing List

Do you receive our newsletter by mail but not our bulletins and Pastor Rob's sermon and would like copies for reading at home or to follow along with our worship livestream? Please contact us at the church and we will be happy to add you to our mailing list for the weekly bulletin.

### Ash Wednesday – February 22

Join us from 11:00am – 1:00pm for Drive Thru Ashes in our parking lot. At 7:00pm, we will be joining First Presbyterian Church, Otterbein United Methodist Church, Schoenbrunn Community Moravian Church, Trinity Episcopal Church - New Philadelphia, St. John's United Church of Christ Dover, and Trinity Episcopal Church - Alliance for an ecumenical worship service at First Presbyterian Church, 217 East High Ave, New Philadelphia.

### Individual Confession



When we hear private or individual confession, we generally do not think of the Lutheran church because we confess our sins in the beginning of worship each Sunday as a group. We do, however, have a service of individual confession and it has always remained an option for Lutherans to participate in. Pastor Rob would like to invite anyone who would want to confess privately to reach out and set up a time. All

confessions are confidential and the seal of confession will not be broken under any circumstance. It can be as formal as the prescribed service from the hymnal or as informal as a having a cup of coffee in his office and talking.

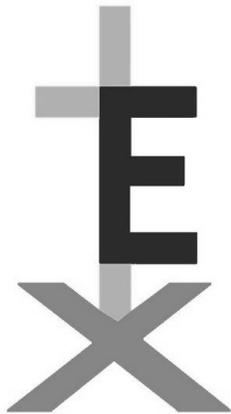
## December Financials

Income:  
\$21,364.78

Expenses:  
\$16,460.14

Difference:  
\$4,904.64

February  
Benevolence:  
Birthright NP



## Worship Volunteers

### February

#### February 5

**Lector:** Marsha Smith  
(Greeters, Ushers, Communion Assistants from Council)

#### February 12

**Greeters:** Butch Baker (parking lot)  
Barb Baker (by bulletins)

**Lector:** Sally Dorn

**Usher:** John Sandy

**Communion Assistants:** Rob and Karen Sterling

#### February 19

**Greeters:** Chuck Moore (parking lot)  
Helaine Moore (by bulletins)

**Lector:** Ken Lab

**Usher:** Lois Victor

**Communion Assistants:** Roger and Marcia Lile

#### February 26

**Greeters:** John Frank (parking lot)  
Joyce Frank (by bulletins)

**Lector:** Bob Victor

**Usher:** Dane Smith

**Communion Assistants:** John Foust and Wayne York

### March

#### March 5

**Lector:** Rob Sterling  
(Greeters, Ushers, Communion Assistants from Council)

#### March 12

**Greeters:** Lori Rainsberg (parking lot)  
Mary Lou Westbrook (by bulletins)

**Lector:** Carol Bates

**Usher:** Barb Rupe

**Communion Assistants:** Ward and Linda Holdsworth

#### March 19

**Greeters:** Butch Baker (parking lot)  
Barb Baker (by bulletins)

**Lector:** Marcia Lile

**Usher:** Deb Ritenour

**Communion Assistants:** Butch and Barb Baker

#### March 26

**Greeters:** John Sandy (parking lot)  
Barb Sandy (by bulletins)

**Lector:** Myrna Hugh

**Usher:** Neil Rupe

**Communion Assistants:** Dick and Myrna Hugh

### Words of Wisdom:

Do all the good you can,  
By all the means you can,  
In all the ways you can,  
In all the places you can,  
At all the times you can,  
To all the people you can,  
As long as ever you can.”

-John Wesley

Find us on YouTube now:

<https://www.youtube.com/@EmmanuelNewPhilly>

Watch past worship services, mid-day devotion videos,  
and Pastor Rob Presents Fun with Flagons!



| Sun  | Mon   | Tue   | Wed  | Thu  | Fri                 | Sat                      |
|--|---|---|--|--|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 29   | 30  | 31  | 1<br>1:30pm - WELCA Bible<br>6pm - Stamp Club            | 2<br>4:30pm - Food Pantry<br>6:30pm - Choir practice | 3<br>Office CLOSED  | 4                        |
| 5<br>9:30 am Worship Service                           | 6<br>12pm - AA Meeting<br>6:45pm - Tusc. Co. Coin | 7<br>11am - Pastors' Group<br>6:30pm - Zumba Class<br>7pm - PROPERTY    | 8  | 9<br>6:30pm - Choir practice                         | 10<br>Office CLOSED | 11                       |
| 12<br>9:30 am Worship Service                          | 13<br>COUNCIL Meeting 6:30<br>12pm - AA Meeting   | 14<br>11am - Pastors' Group<br>6:30pm - Zumba Class                     | 15   | 16<br>6:30pm - Choir practice                        | 17<br>Office CLOSED | 18<br>Messenger DEADLINE |
| 19<br>9:30 am Worship Service<br>Joyful Noise OFFERING | 20<br>12pm - AA Meeting                           | 21<br>11am - Pastors' Group<br>6pm - Stamp Club<br>6:30pm - Zumba Class | 22<br>11am - Drive Thru Ashes<br>7pm - Ash Wed Service - | 23<br>6:30pm - Choir practice                        | 24<br>Office CLOSED | 25                       |
| 26<br>9:30 am Worship Service                          | 27<br>12pm - AA Meeting                           | 28<br>11am - Pastors' Group<br>6:30pm - Zumba Class                     | 1  | 2  | 3                   | 4                        |